(d) Keeping in view the implications of an epidemic, Government of India has taken necessary steps which include the following:

- A High level Centre-State Joint Committee has been formed for close monitoring of the situation and providing technical assistance to all State Governments. Related technical inputs including patient management protocol, standard operating protocol and transfer protocol have been provided to the State Governments.
- Mandatory Screening has been introduced in all Ports and Airports for all the persons disembarking in India and a proforma has been prescribed for such purpose. The health care facilities at such Airports and Ports have been strengthened by deploying additional doctors and evolving a standard operating protocol. Health counters for screening have been opened in all such Airports and ports. The health staff is monitoring passengers of flights and ships arriving in India.
- Facilities for treatment of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in isolation have also been arranged in the Central Government Hospitals as also in other infectious Diseases Hospitals. The State Governments have identified hospitals with isolation facilities for treatment of SARS.
- To meet the immediate requirements, Central Goverment is procuring special respirators from Defence Research Development Organi ation for distribution to State Governments.
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has obtained the required primers for preparing reagents to diagnose the viruses believed to be causing SARS. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune have been identified as the nodal agencies for laboratory investigation of any suspect/probable case.

Supply of Catamine Drug

†4553. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the supply of the cheaper drug Catamine, which has become the choice of foreign tourists, has been in abundance during the last one and half years and it is being carried by them by mixing with rose water;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard and whether Government have contemplated any legal action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has not received any such information regarding Ketamine being carried by foreign tourists by mixing with rose water. Ketamine is an anaesthetic agent and is being manufactured and marketed in the country by various pharmaceuticals firms.

Survey on effect of tobacco products

4554. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have got any survey conducted to find out the effect of tobacco products, gutkha, jarda, mava, etc. on people's health;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Supreme Court have issued directions for imposing ban on smoking in public places;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it is being implemented; and

(e) the number of States which have not implemented the direction and what machinery exists to supervise its implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Based on the studies related to prevalence of tobacco use, magnitude of tobacco related disease and risk of their development due to tobacco usage, it has been estimated that about 8,00,000 persons in India die every year due to their tobacco habit. According to National Family Health Survey-2, the ten worst affected States as far as prevalence of use is concerned, are : Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Nagaland, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.